



CONNECTICUT BOWLING PROPRIETORS

2/28/2012

Committee on General Law

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak in regard to raised bill #58. My name is Bill DeDominicis. I own a bowling center and I am here on behalf of the Connecticut Bowling Proprietors Association.

First I would like to take this opportunity to provide some background on the bowling center permit

The bowling center permit, which now has a fee of \$2,250, was created in 1973 and for some reason it was put in the same category as coliseums (i.e.: XL Center, Hartford Convention Center, Comcast and Oakdale). Why it was compared to coliseums, which was the most expensive permit at the time, I don't know but we do not have anything in common with their operation and our revenues would never come close to theirs. Since then the casino permit was established at a fee of \$2,500, which is the only permit more expensive than ours.

The permit regulations for a bowling center require a minimum of ten lanes. There are thirty-four bowling centers in the state that meet that requirement and they all have a liquor license.

Our revenues have dropped substantially over the years to a point where our lounges are primarily just a service to our league bowlers. In some cases a service window would be sufficient if allowed. We don't offer entertainment or cater to the outside public.

The combination of the affects of the smoking ban, the education of drinking and driving, the overall decrease in alcohol sales along with the downturn of the economy have all taken a heavy toll on the entire bowling operation. These things cannot be changed but the cost of the permit can be corrected and I ask your help in doing that.

I have spoken with the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, William Rubenstein, as well as the prior Commissioner Jerry Farrell, and both agreed that it should be corrected. John Suchy, Director of the Liquor Control Division reported to the Commissioner that the few violations by bowling centers were due to bookkeeping policies and not the serving of alcohol.

Correcting the cost of our license is long overdue and can only be done through the legislative process and that is the reason for this bill and why I am here. I hope you will get the process started.

I again thank you for your time and I will be glad to answer any questions you may have